What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

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SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #235:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello coin enthusiasts!

The fact that I'm writing my third newsletter in as many weeks speaks volumes about just how many auctions there are right now. Before I delve into the auctions, I would like to talk about some upcoming trade shows and a new book that has been recently published.

Upcoming shows
Some exciting shows are coming up that you might want to attend.

FUN Show (8-11 January 2026)
The 71st FUN (Florida United Numismatists) is happening January 8-11, 2026, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. I'm excited to announce that Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. and NAC USA will have a table at this year's show. This is the first year, and I hope to participate in the bourse for many more years to come. The show is comparable in size and importance to the ANA WFOM. There are over 1,500 dealers, a major auction (Heritage), and an estimated 10,000+ collectors. The show is also free to the public, which is an excellent incentive to attend if you are close by or just want to enjoy a few days of presumably warmer weather. As we get closer, I will let everyone know our table number. Tyler Rossi and Josh Benevento will be representing my firm and NAC USA.

We look forward to seeing some of you there. Here is the website should you want to attend.

New York International Coin Convention (15-18 January 2026)
We are excited to attend the 2026 bourse at New York Barclay Hotel. As usual, the festivities begin almost 1 week earlier, on January 10, when Heritage starts its lot viewing. Auctions are occurring throughout, starting on Monday, January 12, and continuing even after the event. Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. and NAC will hold the same table position as in years past at booth #902, right at the top of the stairs. I'd also like to remind everyone that there are some great speakers at the event. I will be sponsoring Doug Mudd again in his talk on Friday, January 17. Doug, the curator of the ANA Edward C. Rochette Money Museum, will be presenting "A Matter of Some Weight," which should prove interesting. I would be pleased to see you there. If you want to check out the entire schedule please look here.

I am really pleased to announce a new book by a good friend and customer, Tim Wright. Tim wrote a book on Celtic Coinage, published by Spink, a few years ago. He was even awarded the Lhotka Prize by the Royal Numismatic Society in 2023. On the heels of that book, he now writes on another passion of his, the coinage of Naxos. Like the Celtic book, which was an introduction to the coinage of the Celts using his own collection, Tim aims to provide an introduction to Greek numismatics through the lens of a single coin type, the tetradrachm of Naxos c. 460 BC. Collectors of Greek coins highly covet the tetradrachms of Naxos, which have fetched some of the highest auction prices (ranking #2 among all Greek types). While Tim is already at work updating the Herbert Cahn reference on Naxos, which remains the definitive reference on the coinage even after 80+ years, this book aims to follow this one particular type from its first strike in c. 460 BC through its sale in an auction some 2500 years later.
Like with Tim's first book, I highly recommend this very readable publication. Coin books tend to be a bit dry and pedantic. Tim's book gives a nice account of a specific coin and how it has developed through the lens of provenance, economics and with a sprinkle of crime. You can buy the book through Spink.

Upcoming Auctions

Artemide Aste LXIV (25-26 October)
Artemide Aste, located in San Marino, has their 64th auction on October 25-26. I've always found AA's strength to be coins of the Roman Republic. For many years I was urged not to mention this auction in my newsletters as it was kind of a hidden secret amongst specialists. I think the proverbial "cat is out of the bag" on this one though so I'd like to give them a shout out. While I can't promise that importing these coins will be hassle-free, I can offer my services to those interested and make it much easier. The auction starts with a strong showing of Greek coins. I noticed a few really interesting fractions that I haven't encountered. For example, lot 152 is a litra from Selinos in Sicily. It has a nymph seated on a rock and raising her hand overhead while gripping a snake. Very dramatic! This is all on a 12mm flan. There are a decent number of tetradrachms of Syracuse, some with excellent pedigrees (lot 161, 166 and 166 are all Ex Santamaria 1958). Lot 231 is a rather atypical, expressive portrait style of Cleopatra VII. Lot 235 is a gold tridrachm from Carthage. The Roman Republic section (for which I always am most excited) starts out with some fun aes grave lots and continues with several price conscientious denarii. I would urge you to check out the videos they offer of all coins on their site as some of the coins appear and are actually very bright suggesting some overzealous cleaning. In the Roman section lot 433 is a Spintria but one that Tiberius would approve of. For those unfamiliar, Spintria are most popular and known for being sex tokens during the 1st century AD. They were struck beginning with the reign of Tiberius and continued throughout his reign ending in 37 AD. While there is no concrete evidence to support they were used for brothel tokens, most scholars agree that this is likely. Another tale linked to the Spintria is that the conservative Tiberius was so appalled to have his image be associated with sexual acts that he banned his image being used on them. This is supported through the writings of Pliny and Suetonius which suggest that there should be a punishment given for anyone using the image of the emperor on coins which are otherwise inappropriate. This is why lot 433 bearing the cuirassed bust of Tiberius is a rather interesting coin. Lot 446 is a rather stunning Judaea Capta sestertius. These are difficult to get in good condition or without a lot of work done on them. This appears to be okay aside from the typical smoothing found on bronzes. I will be participating in this auction so please get in touch soon if you need representation as the auction is tomorrow already.

Stack's Bowers Galleries Bruun Part III (Copenhagen, 29-30 October)
The exciting set of sales from the Bruun collection continues with its third installment. The Bruun sales constitute a unique opportunity to buy some of what many believe is the finest collection of Scandinavian coinage ever assembled. L.E. Bruun, who died in 1923, amassed a 20,000 piece collection spanning from the earliest known issues to coinage struck shortly before he passed away in 1923. The collection was so important that Stack's Bowers managed to hire Michael Fornitz, a top numismatist previously with Bruun Rasmussen in Denmark (a part of Bonhams).

moving until the end of the sale. Most of the coins have beautiful toning and strikes. Lot 11004, a coin of Cnut, which has rainbow toning. It was purchased from a 1922 private sale. Lot 11007 is a practically un-improvable penny from Harthacnut. Lot 11031 has a great strike, iridescent toning and is a difficult to obtain mint. Lot 11122 is a beautifully rendered coin with the lamb of God on the obverse and a Holy Dove on the reverse. The dove is likely modeled after a Roman legionary eagle. It comes from an exceedingly early collection from 1887. Lot 12004 is a rare early Norwegian penny struck under Olav Kyrre with some sort of animal on the obverse. It is stylistically very interesting. Lot 12079 is a beautifully struck double taler under Frederick III of Norway. The details are unbelievably sharp. Lot 12143 is a very early bracteate struck under Erik Eriksson from Sweden. It has a dagger on the obverse, making it a very appealing Viking coin. One of the more impressive and conversation starter lots is 12197, a Swedish 8 daler plate. This massive piece at 625mm x 125mm weighs over 32 lbs. There have only been a few available at this large denomination in recent years (one finds its home in my downtown office in fact). The largest size is 10 daler but there is only one known in private hands and it is illegal to ship them out of Sweden making this 8 daler the largest available denomination to buy. Please get in touch if you need auction representation.

Peus 443 (4-6 November)
Peus will conduct their fall sales with 2,989 lots on November 4-6. Their sales will overlap with NAC, however, the ancients portion is one day before so people interested in both auctions can participate without conflict. I've always appreciated the Peus sales as they consist of reasonably estimated coins with pedigrees. This sale is no different. I like their catalog introduction so I include it here:

Auction 443 begins with a fine selection of 50 Celtic gold coins from a private collection assembled between approximately 1950 and 2002. This is a first glimpse into an impressive special collection comprising well over 1,000 Celtic gold coins, which we are preparing for our spring auction in 2026. It also includes Greek coins that we are already able to offer, such as a gold decadrachm from Syracuse signed by the die cutter Euainetos and a later coin of the same denomination minted under Hieron II (276-216 BC). Overall, Sicily is particularly well represented. We are also offering one of the rare tetradrachms minted by the commander Hamilcar, which depicts a female head with a tiara and a lion on the reverse – both symbols of Carthaginian rule in the conflict with the Syracusans. A stater of the Locrians, minted in Opous, is also of particular quality. The Macedonian Empire is unusually well represented, including a di-stater of Alexander the Great and a double daric for the satrapy of Babylonia.

The Roman Empire is represented by 48 aurei, including those of Augustus from the Montagu and Mazzini collections and an exquisite specimen from the Leo Biaggi de Blasys collection. The section on late antique coins has some real rarities to offer, such as a solidus of Constantine the Great for his son Crispus and several solidi listed as reference specimens in the RIC. Late antiquity also shines in silver, for example with an extremely rare siliqua of the short-lived usurper Priscus Attalus, which has an auction history as illustrious as the previous ones and many of the pieces not specifically mentioned here.

The section of Byzantine coins in this auction is exceptionally extensive, comprising no fewer than 200 solidi, including a solidus of Constans II minted in Syracuse and coins of Irene.

Finally, the rarities from the Migration Period are likely to be of particular interest, forming a bridge to the medieval section, which begins the following day with further coins from this era.

From my side, a few noteworthy lots include, lot 61, a gold 25 Asses from Populonia. This coin comes from the Samlung König, Saabrücken (King Collection) (c. 1950-1988). Lot 77, a beautifully toned Metapontum stater from a 1972 private Coin Galleries purchase. Lot 116, a budget but highly desirable Segesta tetradrachm. It is a plate coin in both Hurter and Lederer and has a pedigree back to a Hirsch 1910 sale (Auction 26, lot 85). Lot 139, a signed gold dekadrachm of Dionysios I. It has a pedigree back to a 1982 Leu sale (Auction 30, lot 48). Lots 164-167 are a nice group of tetradrachms from Carthage. Lot 166 has a larger cut on the medal but a wonderful old Ars Classica pedigree from 1925. Lot 204, a tetradrachm from Audoleon with a 1924 Florange & Ciani pedigree. Lot 275, an affordable gold stater of Philip II, struck under Philip III with the idealized portrait of Alexander. It comes from a 1988 Sternberg sale. Lot 325, a pretty stater from Kaunos from a 1988 G&M auction. Lot

with good pedigrees. Lot 441, an attractive and well centered denarius from the Civil Wars in Italy. This example is from a private Poinsignon (Strasbourg) sale in 2011. Lot 662, a well pedigreed and nicely struck gold solidus of Constantius III. It comes from a 1957 Glendining auction as well as an important Hess-Leu sale of 1961 (the ESR collection).

Coin of the week

United Kingdom, England. Gwc1276II, 1727-1760
London, 1746 AD
AR Proof Halfcrown, 15.39g (34mm, 1h).
Older laureate draped and cuirassed bust r. / Crowned Royal Arms in cruciform, angles plain.

Pedigree: From the Cope Collection

References: Bull 1691; ESC 608; SCBC 3696.

Grade: Previously encapsulated and NGC graded PF 66.

Price: $15,500

wc1276

Buy Coin

In the middle of the 1740's, a tumultuous decade in world history by any metric, the British Royal Mint marked an important first. Located within the Tower of London, mint workers were hard at work striking what would become the 1746 proof set. This was the first proof set of royal coinage produced in England, and started a trend that continues down to the present day. Consisting of four silver denominations (the crown, half-crown, shilling, and sixpence), it is estimated that only 100 of these sets were sold to the public. Supposedly, the silver needed for these coins was acquired from the Spanish off the Pacific coast of South America as a result of privateering over the preceding years.

Throughout the last 278 years, the vast majority of the sets have been either broken up or melted down, and very few sets remain intact. In addition to this particular coin's beautiful proof finish, it can be attributed to one of these sets based on the fact that it does not have

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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